repealed by the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Repeal Act, 1999 and this restored to the States their Constitutional and legislative powers on the subject of land as enumerated in entry 18, List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

(b) The Repeal Act has already come into force in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and UT of NCT of Delhi, Pondicherry and Chandigarh.

(c) The estimated housing shortage till the end of Tenth Plan is 22.44 million and approximately 80% is for weaker section and low income group.

(d) to (e) Housing is a State subject and the State Governments are required to prepare action plan for any housing activity in the State. National Habitat & Housing Policy, 1998, however, provides that emphasis will be on creation of housing stock on ownerships and rental basis.

Development of urban areas of North East

1896. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA:
SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to develop the urban areas of the North Eastern States with special mention to Assam;

(b) whether any funds have been provided for the development of the cities and towns of Assam in this current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Under this Ministry the following schemes are in operation to develop the urban areas of North Eastern States:

(i) Lump sum provision for the benefit of projects/schemes for North Eastern Region including Sikkim: Under the scheme, 68 projects/ schemes have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 50267.79 lakh and Rs. 30748.14 lakh have been released for North Eastern Region. Details are given in the Annexure-I to IV respectively [*See* Appendix 203 Annexure No. 13]

(ii) Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) is in operation since 1979-80 with objective of developing towns with population below 5 lakh (1991 Census). Under this scheme 138 towns from North-Eastern States have been covered so far and Rs. 4947.92 lakh were released as central assistance and State Governments have reported expenditure of Rs. 6013.66 lakh. State-wise number of towns covered, Central assistance released and expenditure reported are given in the Annexure-I to IV [*See* Appendix 203 Annexure No. 13]

(iii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) was launched in March, 1994 to assist State Governments to implement Water supply Programme in small towns having population less than 20000 as per 1991 census. Detailed information is given in Annexure-I to IV [*See* Appendix I to IV Annexure No. 13]

(b) and (c) Under the scheme of Lump sum provision for the benefit of projects/schemes for North-Eastern Region including Sikkim during the current financial year Rs. 286.56 lakh were released. Details are given in Annexure-I to IV [*See* Appendix 203 Annexure No. 13]

Under the scheme of IDSMT during the current financial year 11 towns of Assam State have been covered and Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 314.84 lakh has been released. The town-wise details are given in the Annexure-I to IV [*See* Appendix 203 Annexure No. 13]

Under the AUWSP scheme Rs. 448.45 lakh have been released for the State of Assam. Details are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 203 Annexure No. 13]

Valmiki Ambedkar Housing Scheme

†1897. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced Valmiki Ambedkar Housing Scheme for the people living Below Poverty Line in the slums; and

(b) if so, the amount allocated to Chhattisgarh under this scheme during the current financial year?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.